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ADEN. 24 Feb.—*Yemen*. It was learned from authorized sources that the Imam Yahya and his Prime Minister were assassinated at Hezvez on 17 February, and that two of his sons, Husayn and Muhsin, were assassinated at San'a.

AFGHANISTAN. 4 Mar.—Kashmir undertaking (*see India*).

ANTARCTIC. 21 Feb.—The Chilean President, before leaving, signed a decree awarding portions of land in Greenwich Island and Graham Land to different members of the Chilean expedition.

24 Feb.—Mineral wealth (*see Falkland Islands*). Claims (*see Chile*).

25 Feb.—Bevin statement (*see Great Britain*).

26 Feb.—Statement by Foreign Minister (*see Argentina*).

2 Mar.—Proposed lease of whaling bases (*see Chile*).

4 Mar.—Argentine-Chilean Agreement (*see Argentina*).

ARAB LEAGUE. 21 Feb.—*Yemen*. The two emissaries, Abdulmunaym Mustafa Bey (Egypt), and Dr Hasan Ismayl (Egypt), left for San'a (*see p. 107*).

23 Feb.—The Council concluded its sessions.

Palestine. It was agreed to withhold co-operation in developing oil concessions, already granted or in prospect, from any country that might advocate forceful imposition of a Zionist State in Palestine. Azzam Pasha declared that the Arabs, defending their rights, were ill organized and ill armed, but the League would give them every chance to defend themselves, though they were still desperately short of arms and ammunition. The story that huge quantities of arms were reaching the Arabs from abroad was untrue. Arab morale, however, was high, and once they received sufficient arms there could be no doubt of the result.

Treaty Relations. A Syrian proposal that the Arab States should conclude a mutual defence pact and make no other alliances without League sanction was referred to the several Arab States for consideration. The conference appointed a permanent military committee.

Libya. The League urged that Libya should be united, independent, and free to choose its own form of government, and that if a trustee were required it should be the League or one of the League States.

ARGENTINA. 25 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. Bevin statement (*see Great Britain*).

26 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. The Foreign Minister, Dr Bramuglia, told the Press that Argentina would not negotiate with Britain about the Falklands, which were unquestionably Argentine, although the Antarctic was another matter. He said Argentina still hoped that Great Britain would voluntarily return the Falkland Islands to the Argentine Government and people.

27 Feb.—President Perón met President Berres of Uruguay on board their yachts in the River Plate.

1 Mar.—The Government signed with Britain an agreement transferring to them the British-owned railways.

4 Mar.—*Antarctic Dispute*. An agreement for the joint defence of Chilean and Argentine rights in the South American Antarctic zone was signed at Santiago. The Foreign Minister announced that Argentina would raise the question of these territories in the forthcoming inter-American conference at Bogota.

AUSTRALIA. 27 Feb.—*Railway Strike*. The Queensland Government proclaimed a state of emergency under which the police had power to arrest all strike pickets. Following an award of the State Arbitration Court, it announced that all workers must return on Monday or be dismissed.

I.T.O. Charter. Replying to Opposition criticism in the House of Representatives, the Prime Minister, Mr Chifflery, said: 'We went to Geneva for three reasons: first, because we had a moral obligation under the agreements we had entered into during the war; secondly, because Britain thought it was essential; thirdly, because we had our own privileges under Imperial Preference to preserve.'

1 Mar.—*Railway Strike*. An order by an industrial court directing workshop workers to return to work was only obeyed by about 100 men. The strike spread to water-front workers and all Queensland ports were at a standstill.

2 Mar.—*Dock Strike*. Some 1,000 dockers at Port Adelaide were suspended for refusing to work overtime.

AUSTRIA. 22 Feb.—The Government stated that the Soviet military authorities had removed to Hungary a floating dock of the Danube Steamship Company.

27 Feb.—*Allied Council*. Lieut.-General Galloway (Great Britain) proposed that each occupying power should tell the Government by 15 March what property it intended to remove under the title of war booty. Gen. Kurassov (U.S.S.R.) opposed. Gen. Galloway then said that Britain would furnish the Government with the relevant information on the British zone.

Treaty discussions (see *Council of Foreign Ministers*).

2 Mar.—Workers in many factories in Vienna went on strike as a protest against the food shortage. It was understood that there had been no meat available since the end of January. The Chancellor, Dr Figl, received a trade union delegation which protested against the poor rations.

BELGIUM. 29 Feb.—*Western Union*. Speaking to a delegation of French Deputies who were considering the question of an economic union between France and the Benelux countries, M. Spaak, the Prime Minister, said: 'During the coming months we are going to organize western Europe together with our British friends. We are going to make a political agreement and, to be frank, this must entail a military agreement also, but a political agreement makes nonsense unless based on an economic agreement. There is no other policy but a west European union to overcome the difficulties ahead.'

BENELUX. 23 Feb.—*See Conference on Germany (London).*

27 Feb.—*Western Union.* Officials of the Foreign Ministries met for consultations at The Hague.

29 Feb.—*Western Union.* The three Prime Ministers met in Brussels to discuss Western Union.

4 Mar.—Brussels Conference (*see Western Union*).

BRITISH HONDURAS. 27 Feb.—Cruiser sails (*see Great Britain*).

1 Mar.—H.M.S. *Devonshire* landed troops together with lorries, guns, light arms, and ammunition at Belize.

28 Feb.—H.M.S. *Sheffield* arrived at Belize, and marines were deployed at strategic points in the colony.

BULGARIA. 26 Feb.—The National Assembly approved the nationalization of all land, houses, and flats, except those belonging to workers.

BURMA. 24 Feb.—The Government announced that they had agreed with the U.S.S.R. to establish diplomatic and consular relations.

CANADA. 4 Mar.—The Government decided to bar the entry of Communists into the Dominion.

CHINA. 21 Feb.—Trade mission report (*see Great Britain*).

CHILE. 21 Feb.—President's voyage (*see Antarctic*).

24 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute.* The President, in an address at Punta Arenas, announced that Chile had formally annexed its sector of the Antarctic. He then signed a message to Congress asking approval for the creation of an administrative department for the Antarctic and its incorporation in the Chilean province of Magallanes, together with all territory lying south-east of the Beagle Canal in Tierra del Fuego. Dr Videla declared: 'From today, Chile extends from Arica to the South Pole . . . Chile has such legitimate titles and rights over the Antarctic region that other States outside the American continent feel the need to resort to the threat of attacking and military bases, and using the guns of their invincible fleet to justify their imperialist aims of colonizing our lands.'

25 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute.* Bevin statement (*see Great Britain*).

2 Mar.—The Ministry of Agriculture and Land Settlement announced that the Government had agreed to lease 'State-owned lands' in the Antarctic to an industrial company for setting up whaling bases. It was stated that the President had signed the decree permitting this during his visit to 'the Chilean Antarctic base of Puerto Soberania' on Greenwich Island.

3 Mar.—*Antarctic Dispute.* Addressing the crowd from the Palace balcony in Santiago, President Videla declared that Britain was guilty of aggression against Chile for having sent the cruiser *Nigeria* to the Falkland Islands Dependencies. Chile would complain at the forthcoming inter-American Conference at Bogota against Mr Marshall's policy of

excluding Antarctica from the zone of American hemisphere security.
 4 Mar.—*Antarctic Dispute. Agreement (see Argentina).*

CONFERENCE ON AFRICA. 21 Feb.—A communiqué said that the Conference had met from 17-20 February in Paris to examine the possibility of increasing economic and technical co-operation between the African territories of Britain and France. It dealt with four subjects of special importance, marketing policy, communications, inter-colonial trade, and colonial development plans, particularly in relation to West Africa where British and French territories interlocked so closely. Stress was laid on the importance of communications and it was agreed to continue and intensify measures already taken to improve them. Consideration was also given to possible joint action for the improved use of local resources. The Conference recommended that the responsible departments in the two countries should establish contact to co-ordinate their work on colonial development plans and in particular on plans for scientific research.

CONFERENCE ON GERMANY (LONDON). 22 Feb.—Foreign Minister's statement (*see Poland*).

23 Feb.—Mr Lewis Douglas (U.S.A.), M. Massigli (France), and Sir William Strang (Great Britain) began discussions. It was decided that the Benelux countries should be invited to take part.

Reply to Soviet Note (*see Great Britain*).

26 Feb.—A Benelux delegation, composed of the representatives of the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg, joined the Conference.

27 Feb.—Soviet Note (*see U.S.A.*).

CONFERENCE ON GERMANY (PRAGUE). 23 Feb.—Resolution transmitted (*see Great Britain*).

COSTA RICA. 3 Mar.—Sr O. U. Blanco, whose election as President was annulled by the Congress of 1 March, was arrested and charged with complicity in the killing of two customs guards who had sought to arrest him earlier.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS. 21 Feb.—*Austrian Treaty.* The deputies met to discuss the Soviet proposals on German assets. M. Koltomov (U.S.S.R.) maintained that the Soviet proposals were sufficiently explicit to allow agreement without prolonged discussions. Other deputies said that agreement could not be reached until they were in a position to judge the exact effect of the proposals on Austrian economy. On the Soviet claim for \$200 million in convertible currency within two years as compensation for those German assets to which the U.S.S.R. was foregoing its claim, Mr Marjoribanks (Great Britain) said he was at a loss to understand how the U.S.S.R. thought Austria could pay such a huge sum so quickly and he asked whether the U.S.S.R. could not envisage some form of long term payment. M. Koltomov said that Austria would be able to pay the money out of the value of those

German assets to which his Government did not lay claim. Mr Reber (U.S.A.) pointed out that these assets were internal assets while Austria was being asked to pay in convertible currency. On the Soviet claim for two-thirds of current Austrian oil production for a period of 50 years, M. Koktomov indicated that it was proposed that a map and a list should be prepared showing the annual production of oil in each area in 1947 and that the U.S.S.R. should then be allotted rights to an area in which the production was two-thirds of the total.

27 Feb.—*Austrian Treaty*. The other three deputies finished questioning M. Koktomov (U.S.S.R.) about the precise meaning of the Soviet proposals. Gen. Cherrière (France) said that in spite of considerable differences between the French and Soviet proposals there was some agreement in principle, and he therefore suggested that the next stage should be the consideration of the two proposals side by side and clause by clause.

2 Mar.—*Austrian Treaty*. Mr Marjoribanks (Britain) said that the discussions of the past week had shown that to confine their arguments to percentages and global figures could be nearly as unprofitable as the attempts that had been made earlier to define German assets. There was need to take a step forward, and he therefore put forward a list of those enterprises engaged in the production, exploration, refining, and distribution of oil that, in the opinion of the British delegation, might pass to the U.S.S.R. as part of a satisfactory settlement. M. Koktomov (U.S.S.R.) said he could not accept the British proposal; he wished to keep to a discussion of 'principle'.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA. 22 Feb.—*Communist Manifesto*. A resolution adopted by a conference of works councils representatives demanded immediate nationalization of all industrial undertakings employing more than 50 workers, the whole import and export trade, all building firms, printing houses, hospitals, etc. It announced the firm resolve of the workers to put an end to all reactionary plots and to prevent capitalist exploitation. A token strike of one hour was authorized for 24 February. Addressing the meeting the Prime Minister, M. Gottwald (Communist), said that President Benes was being pressed to accept the resignations of the twelve ministers (see p. 111).

23 Feb.—*Communist Manifesto*. A number of persons connected with the Czech Socialist and Slovak Democratic Parties were arrested. Police searched the Prague offices of the Czech Socialist Party for arms, but, it was stated, found none. An order was issued forbidding Czechoslovak citizens to leave the country without a special authorization from the Ministry of the Interior. The Ministry of the Interior issued a statement saying that as a result of searches and investigations documents had been discovered which pointed to the fact that the Socialist Party were plotting against the Government. The Social Democratic Party, in a statement, said they were ready to negotiate with the Communists on the lines mentioned in a Communist letter to them, but on a basis of complete equality and on the understanding that the solution of the crisis must be a democratic and parliamentary one.

24 Feb.—*Communist Manifesto*. There was a strike for one hour of all workers, except those in public utilities. Dr Benes received the twelve non-Communist Ministers who had resigned.

Some Czech Socialists arrested the previous day were released, but there were further arrests, mostly of minor officials.

The printers' union sent instructions to their members that they must not set up any material hostile to R.O.H., i.e. the revolutionary trade union movement, the police, nationalization, or the U.S.S.R. Paper mills (all of which were nationalized) refused to supply paper to non-Communist newspapers.

Obzory, the organ of the Catholic People's Party, was commandeered and became the organ of the Action Committee which had been formed under Communist direction to work out the details of a new National Front, to include representatives of various nation-wide organizations which, though technically non-political, were understood to be under Communist control.

25 Feb.—*Communist Manifesto*. Dr Benes accepted the resignation of the twelve Ministers and a new Government was formed. Communists (9)—Prime Minister, K. Gottwald; Deputy Prime Minister, A. Zapotocky; Foreign Trade, Dr A. Gregor; Interior, V. Nosek; Finance, Dr J. Dolansky; Education, Dr Z. Nejedly; Justice, Dr A. Cepicka; Information, V. Kopecky; International Trade, F. Krajcir. Slovak Communists (3)—Deputy Prime Minister, V. Siroky; Deputy Foreign Affairs, Dr V. Clementis; Agriculture, J. Duris. Czech Social Democrats (4)—Deputy Prime Minister, B. Lausman; Industry, Z. Fierlinger; Social Welfare, E. Erban; Food, Mme L. Jankovcova. Czech Socialists (2)—Technical Planning, Dr A. Slechta; Posts, Dr A. Neuman. Slovak Democrats (1)—Deputy Defence, Dr J. Sevcik. Slovak Freedom (1)—Unification of Laws, Dr W. Srobar. People's Party (2)—Transport, A. Petr; Health, J. Plojhar. Non-Party (2)—Foreign Affairs, Jan Masaryk; National Defence, Gen. Svoboda.

Dr Benes, in a letter to the Communist Party, dated 24 February, said: 'You know my strongly democratic views. I cannot but remain faithful to them even in this critical hour because I believe democracy to be the only trustworthy and permanent basis of decent and dignified national life. I insist on parliamentary democracy and parliamentary government within the framework of democracy. I built my political work on these principles, and I cannot go back on them without being a traitor to myself. Today's crisis of democracy can only be overcome in a democratic and parliamentary way.' He added that he agreed to the Communist Party's demand that M. Gottwald should be the new Prime Minister, but as the final bearer of political responsibility, 'I demand that all our political parties shall be represented in the National Front. We all accepted this principle up to the beginning of the crisis and the fact that the crisis occurred does not mean that the principle was bad. I am sure that it is only on the basis of this principle that we can attain the necessary co-operation of all and that we can settle all quarrels to the advantage of the nation and the united State of Czechs and Slovaks.'

He knew that the majority of the nation wanted Socialism, but he

could not agree that Socialism could not be combined with freedom and co-operation, which were the mainsprings of the whole country's national life.

The Communist Party's reply stated that it could not co-operate with the present H.Q. of the Czech Socialist, People's, and Slovak Democratic parties because they were opposed to the unity and peaceful development of the Republic. They declared: 'These parties are no longer representative of the working classes in town and country and are now in subversive opposition, fighting against the Kosice programme. The nation demands a Government of real patriots. Even their own party members repudiate their leaders and ask for new ones.'

It was understood that all Civil Servants regarded as non-progressive had been removed from their posts, and newspapers not representing this point of view either closed down or put under new management. Schools and universities were also being purged.

Parties of civilians carrying arms marched through the streets. They were understood to be members of the works militia organized by the revolutionary trade union movement.

Bidault statement (see *France*).

26 Feb.—*Communist Manifesto*. Three-power statement (see *Great Britain*).

The Union of Journalists expelled the editors and numerous others working for *Svobodne Slovo* (Czech Socialist paper), *Svobodne Noviny* (Independent), and *Lidova Demokracie* (People's Party). The Ministry of Information issued an order that copies of every item which was to appear in any newspaper or periodical were to be submitted for approval before being published.

27 Feb.—*Communist Manifesto*. The eleven members of the new Cabinet were sworn in. In an address M. Gottwald spoke of 'certain frail opinions expressed abroad about a hypothetical threat to freedom and Parliamentary government'. His Cabinet would not accept lessons on democracy and constitutionalism from those who were responsible for Munich, who bargained about Czechoslovakia's existence with Hitlerite Germany, and who undemocratically and illegally tore up the treaties of alliance and friendship with Czechoslovakia. There had been a deliberate and adventurous attempt to destroy the very foundations of the State, an attempt which the people had repudiated with a storm of indignation and a spontaneous demand that saboteurs should be removed from the Government. He thanked President Benes for the confidence shown in him and the other members of the Government, and ended: 'Please accept my assurance that we are truly grateful to you for having so considerably helped the cause of the people and democracy to victory.'

President Benes, in his reply, said that he had had to make a very difficult decision, but that after giving the matter long and earnest thought he had come to the conclusion that he must accept M. Gottwald's proposals. He had realized that unless he accepted them there might have been such a serious rift in the nation that general chaos would have ensued. 'You want to conduct the affairs of State in a new way and according to a new form of democracy. I should like to express to you,

the nation, and the State, the wish that this new way may prove a happy one for all.'

The Government, in a reply to the three-Power declaration, said that the three great Powers concerned were not entitled to interfere in the internal affairs of other States. It was curious that they should suggest that Czechoslovakia was aping methods employed elsewhere, seeing that every one knew that it was those who engineered the crisis who had been turned out of the Government. The Czechoslovak Government intended to follow a 'strictly democratic constitutional and Parliamentary course'.

The purge continued. Dr Englis, rector of Charles University, was removed from his post. In the philosophical faculty various professors were dismissed, including Dr Ripka, ex-Minister of Foreign Trade.

The Academy of Music sent several professors on leave. The Ministry of Agriculture announced that a large number of persons had been expelled from the Agricultural Academy.

The Minister of Education, Professor Nejedlý, announced that civic education must form part of all scholastic life 'as in the Army', and decreed that a portrait of Stalin must hang in every schoolroom.

The Ministry of Agriculture issued a list of some forty-one estates which had been reduced to 50 hectares each, including 17,861 hectares belonging to the Catholic Archbishopric of Prague.

Bidault statement (*see France*).

28 Feb.—*Communist Manifesto*. It was announced that M. Zorin, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, had left Prague after a ten-day visit. The purpose of his visit was stated to have been to see how Soviet deliveries of grain were progressing.

There was a parade in Prague of the police force, and of detachments of the civilian works militia. After thanking the police and militia for the honourable part they had played 'in frustrating the plans of reaction', M. Gottwald went on to describe Czechoslovakia as a country which used its police not to defend capitalism but to protect the people. Speaking of the militia, he said there was no danger in giving arms to the people in a truly democratic State. He concluded by saying that it was still necessary to keep a close watch on reactionaries at home, who would undoubtedly try to co-operate with foreign agents and spies.

M. Nosek, Minister of the Interior, declared: 'Though the crisis is at an end, we must not relax our watchfulness. The enemies of the State, though defeated, are still among us. We must defend our freedom, which was dearly paid for in the blood of our own people and of our Soviet allies.'

The Social Democrats issued a manifesto which declared that the party had been through a serious crisis, in the course of which some 'rightist' elements had been eliminated. Henceforward all Social Democrats should fight in the action committees for socialism and a truly democratic Republic.

M. Masaryk, in an interview with the French press, said that many people in Czechoslovakia had thought it was possible to have a Government either without or against the Communists. Hence the crisis which

had been created by three parties of the old National Front. Now there was a new National Front and it was necessary to co-operate. He himself would serve the new democracy as well and as faithfully as his strength allowed. He declared: 'I have always gone with the people and I shall continue to do so.'

It was announced that Dr Lettrich, former chairman of the Slovak Democratic Party, would be tried for high treason.

1 Mar.—*Communist Manifesto*. The Minister of Information, M. Kopecky, answering questions on the constitutional position of the action committees at a Press conference, said that the committees were based on popular will and that as the Constitution of the first Republic specifically stated that the will of the people should prevail it was clear that they were constitutional.

2 Mar.—*Communist Manifesto*. The Minister of Justice, Dr Cepicka, issued an order entrusting the action committees with the task of 'cleansing' the non-Communist parties. The committees were declared to be the supreme organs on cultural and political matters.

The membership of the new Slovak Board of Trustees which had been formed several days previously was announced. It consisted of eight Communists, two Social Democrats, one member of the Liberty Party, one trade unionist, one member of the Resistance Movement, and one Slovak Democrat. (The Democrats had previously held a majority on the Board by virtue of having received over 60 per cent of the total votes in the 1946 elections.)

British Labour Party statement (see *Great Britain*).

3 Mar.—It was officially stated that President Benes was ill.

Communist Manifesto. Ambassador resigns (see *U.S.A.*).

4 Mar.—*Communist Manifesto*. Four Supreme Court judges and the Brno Procurator-General were dismissed. The State-Procurator and three of his assistants from the State Attorney's office in Prague were dismissed, and also the President and Vice-President and other judges from the Prague District Court, and eight provincial courts. Sixteen leading officials from the Ministry of Justice went on leave.

M. Masaryk, speaking to officials of the Ministry of National Defence, declared: 'My place is with the people, with the Czechs and Slovaks whom I love. When I hear talk of people who have begun resistance my heart aches. Resistance against Hitler—yes. But resistance against our own blood, against our own brothers, and against our own Republic—never.'

DENMARK. 21 Feb.—*Trade Agreement*. An agreement covering the period to 1 October 1948 was concluded with Great Britain. Denmark would be permitted to buy certain goods for sterling outside the sterling area. It would deliver 40,000 tons of butter, 81 per cent of its total bacon exports, and 85 per cent of its total egg exports. Prices were to be 33 per cent higher for butter, 40 per cent for bacon, and 48 per cent for eggs. Britain was to deliver to Denmark 870,000 tons of coal and 655,000 tons of iron and steel as well as other products.

23 Feb.—*See Northern Conference*.

EGYPT. 22 Feb.—Note on Sudan conference (*see Great Britain*).

26 Feb.—Yemen. It was reported that the eldest son of the late Imam, Amir Ahmad (who had fled from the Yemen in 1946), had established his H.Q. at Hagga, north-west Yemen, where he had mobilized his forces and proclaimed himself Commander of the Faithful and Imam of Yemen.

29 Feb.—Yemen. It was reported that Imam Abdullah al-Wazir was marching against Hagga to crush the movement headed by Amir Ahmad.

3 Mar.—Trade Agreement. An agreement was signed with the U.S.S.R. for the supply by the U.S.S.R. of 216,000 tons of wheat and 19,000 tons of maize in exchange for 38,000 tons of cotton from Government stocks. The two contracting parties would grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment for all agricultural and industrial products.

EIRE. 24 Feb.—The Prime Minister, Mr Costello, said in a broadcast that the Government's immediate problems were of a social, economic, and educational character, and economic conditions must take priority over all political and constitutional matters. He went on: 'We can expect from Britain the greatest understanding in building up prosperity here, and we shall strive for the adoption of an increasing number of schemes of mutual economic advantage to both countries.' Eire would continue to play a part in contributing towards the recovery of the stricken countries of Europe.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. 4 Mar.—It was learned that invitations had been issued to the sixteen nations for a new conference in Paris on 15 March.

FALKLAND ISLANDS. 24 Feb.—*Antarctic Dispute*. The Governor said in a broadcast there had been and still was a great deal of colourful speculation as to the mineral treasures which lay buried in the Antarctic, but so far there was nothing whatever to justify it. A few isolated copper deposits, unimportant traces of other metals, and of some low grade coal were all that had been found. Referring to Chilean and Argentine claims, he declared: 'We are at present witnessing a great deal of ostentatious and provocative displays by both countries—naval manoeuvres, military exercises, Presidential visits etc. . . . Our own attitude is that we welcome and are ready to further the scientific activities of any nation provided no infringement of British sovereignty is attempted or implied.'

President Videla's declaration (*see Chile*).

26 Feb.—Statement by Foreign Minister (*see Argentina*).

FINLAND. 27 Feb.—In a letter to President Paasikivi, M. Stalin proposed the conclusion of a military assistance pact between Finland and the U.S.S.R. He pointed out that Finland was now the only neighbour

of the U.S.S.R. which took part in the war and which had no treaty of friendship and mutual assistance with it.

2 Mar.—Trade agreement (*see Great Britain*).

FRANCE. 24 Feb.—On a motion introduced by the Opposition in the Assembly demanding repayment of the 5000-franc notes recently called in and, as yet, only partly repaid, the Government received a vote of confidence by 291 votes to 268, with 39 registered abstentions.

25 Feb.—*Western Union*. M. Bidault, speaking at a luncheon of the Anglo-American Press Association in Paris of the efforts of France and Britain to gather round them 'what is left of an orderly Europe', said it was not their fault if Europe was reduced to 16 countries, the rest having been withdrawn with or without their consent. It was the smallest Europe there had been, and the only one they could work with, but one that they could not accept as permanent.

Czechoslovakia. He referred to the common traditions of this Europe, among which was respect for one's opponent. 'There can be no democracy where you shoot or hang your opponent, or where people speak of their truth, their freedom, their justice, and not simply of truth, freedom, and justice. I have the right and the duty to say that events in a not distant capital are the subject of the gravest concern on our part. It is not conceivable that pawns should be indefinitely moved about on the chess board without the situation becoming rapidly dangerous, probably at short notice. There is still time to resume the practices of international collaboration that we have always defended; but it is time, high time, that this were done.'

26 Feb.—*Czechoslovakia*. Statement (*see Great Britain*).

27 Feb.—*Czechoslovakia*. Speaking in the National Assembly, M. Bidault said the developments in Prague were a disservice to the efforts made to liberate Europe from tyranny. 'This event is one of a series, the formidable character of which increases in seriousness as these incidents come nearer to us . . . It cannot be doubted that these manoeuvres, developed ceaselessly on the European chessboard, may lead to a situation which could become rapidly very dangerous. This is neither a warning nor a demand; it is a cry of alarm uttered from the depths of the heart.'

2 Mar.—The Government signed a cultural convention with Britain.

3 Mar.—*Western Union*. The Franco-British parliamentary groups held two sittings in Paris.

4 Mar.—Brussels Conference (*see Western Union*).

GERMANY. 22 Feb.—*Soviet Zone*. Trade treaty negotiations (*see Poland*).

27 Feb.—*Denazification: Soviet Zone*. By a decree of the Military Governor denazification commissions throughout the zone were dissolved. Provision was made for 'those former members of the Nazi Party and its auxiliaries who were guilty of no crimes' to serve again in certain specified public posts.

2 Mar.—*Bizonal Régime*. Dr Pünder, chief burgomaster of Cologne

and a former State Secretary under the Weimar Republic, was elected Director-General (*Oberdirektor*) of the Administrative Council. The directors elected were: Economics, Prof. Erhard; Food and Agriculture, Dr Schlange-Schöningen; Finance, Hr Alfred Hartmann; Transport, Prof. Frohne; Communications, Hr Hans Schuberth.

4 Mar.—*Soviet Zone*. The spring fair was ceremonially opened at Leipzig.

GOLD COAST COLONY. 28 Feb.—Two Africans were killed and some twenty-five injured in rioting which broke out in Accra as a sequel to a procession organized by ex-service men with a petition to the Governor. Tear gas had to be used against the crowd, who had resorted to looting and incendiarism.

2 Mar.—The Governor, in a statement on the disorders of 28 February, said that a deputation of ex-service men was authorized to present a petition to the Government and a procession was permitted along a certain route. When the procession left the agreed route, the police made every peaceful effort to prevent them from doing so, but force had to be resorted to. Taking advantage of this a mob instigated by certain persons started riots which had caused him to call in troops to assist the police to restore order.

4 Mar.—The Governor, Sir Gerald Creasy, proclaimed a state of emergency at Accra in consequence of 'cost of living' riots in which 14 people were killed and 152 injured. He said in a broadcast that he hoped it would not be necessary for him to use his wide powers but he would use the regulations authorizing him to supervise the Press.

GREAT BRITAIN. 21 Feb.—Chilean President's activities (*see Antarctic*).

China. The report of the U.K. Trade Mission was published.

Incomes and Prices. The British Communist Party annual congress approved unanimously the political report rejecting the decision of the T.U.C. (*see p. 121*) to support the Government's policy. It was the task of all trade unionists and their officials to demand that their executive 'fight for wage advances to meet the rising cost of living'. The Party warned trade unionists 'against passively accepting adverse decisions of arbitration tribunals'.

Palestine. The Treasury announced that owing to recent rapid withdrawals, Palestine sterling balances were henceforth blocked except for fixed sums to be released, and that Palestine was excluded from the sterling area. For current expenditure £7 million was released until the middle of May. Transjordan, which had the same currency as Palestine, had notified the Government that it intended to make such currency and exchange control arrangements as would enable it to return to the sterling area.

22 Feb.—*Sterling Balances.* The financial agreement with Pakistan of 14 August 1947 was extended to 30 June 1948. The sum of £10 million would be transferred to a new account by way of a working balance and a further £6 million from the No. 2 account, and in addition

a balance estimated at £4 million carried forward from 1947. Pakistan agreed to restrict its net drawings on the central reserves for hard currencies to a total of £3·3 million in addition to its own earnings of hard currencies.

Sudan. In a Note to Egypt the Government accepted the suggestion for a Conference (*see* III, p. 692).

Trade agreement (*see* *Denmark*).

23 Feb.—*Palestine.* The Colonial Under-Secretary, Mr Rees-Williams, stated in the House of Commons that responsibility for the Jerusalem explosion (*see* p. 89) had not yet been established, but 'I can say at once that the authorities have found nothing to confirm the allegation understood to have been broadcast in Palestine that members of the British security forces were involved, and the Zionist authorities have been challenged to produce any evidence in support of this charge, which, as the Palestine Government have said, is unbelievable'.

Conference on Germany. The Government replied to the Soviet Note of 13 February (*see* p. 121). They could not 'accept the validity of the contention that the convocation of this conference in London is a violation of the agreement regarding control machinery in Germany or of the Potsdam agreement, neither of which contains any provision excluding the possibility of discussion by any of the occupying Powers of problems of common interest such as are to be the subject of the coming talks in London'.

The Government received from Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia copies of the Prague resolutions on Germany.

24 Feb.—Civil use of leased air bases (*see* U.S.A.).

Defence. The Navy Estimates were published, totalling £153 million, a reduction of £44 million on 1947.

25 Feb.—*Defence.* The Army Estimates for 1948–49 showed that out of a total of £692,600,000 to be incurred on all the Services, net expenditure would be £305 million, a decrease of £98 million.

Antarctic Dispute. Mr Bevin, replying in the House of Commons to a question as to whether he would indicate the intention of the Government to refer to the Security Council their dispute with the Governments of Argentina and Chile if the present line of action by those Governments was continued, stated: 'The policy of H.M. Government is that the question of rival claims in the Falkland Islands Dependencies should, in the first instance, be brought before the International Court of Justice. This is based on our belief that international discussions could scarcely be profitably held until the question of title has been subjected to international legal examination. This, of course, in no way precludes the possibility of discussions at a later stage. It has been suggested from the Chilean side that our offer to accept the opinion of the Court was not a fair one because we were asking the other parties to appear as plaintiffs. I wish to point out that the sole reason for presenting the matter in this form was that neither Argentina nor Chile had accepted the optional clause of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and that consequently it is impossible at present for H.M. Government to bring this dispute before the Court by themselves proceeding as

plaintiffs. H.M. Government desire, however, to reaffirm that if the Argentine and Chilean Governments are willing to make an agreement with us under which the Court shall pronounce upon the title to these territories, we shall be glad to collaborate in the negotiation of such an agreement . . . The President of Chile has now returned home after his visit to the South Shetlands and has made certain declarations. The Argentine fleet—carrying five admirals—is now, I understand, off Deception Island. H.M. representative in Buenos Aires has been assured by the Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs that these vessels have been sent with no intention of asserting any rights or taking possession of any territory, but merely to carry out routine exercises in that area. In the opinion of H.M. Government these expeditions and the declarations which accompany them in no way affect the question of title and sovereignty in these areas.'

26 Feb.—*Czechoslovakia*. A statement issued jointly with the U.S.A. and France said the three Governments had 'followed with attention the recent course of events in Czechoslovakia which jeopardized the very existence of the principles of liberty to which all democratic nations are attached. They declare that, thanks to a crisis artificially and deliberately provoked, certain methods already exploited elsewhere have been used to bring about suspension of free Parliamentary institutions and the establishment of a disguised dictatorship of a single party under the cloak of a Government of National Union. They can only condemn a development, the consequences of which must surely be disastrous to the Czechoslovak people, who again proved, during the sufferings of a second world war, their devotion to the cause of liberty'.

Antarctic Dispute. Statement by Foreign Minister (*see Argentina*).

Coal. The Minister of Fuel and Power, Mr Gaitskell, announced that between 15 and 16 million tons would be allocated for export in 1948.

27 Feb.—*Pacific Fleet's visit (see Indo-China)*.

British Honduras. It was announced that H.M. Cruiser *Devonshire* was sailing to Belize from Jamaica with troops on board to protect British lives and property against possible harm from irresponsible elements who threatened to invade the colony from Guatemala.

Defence. In a statement explaining the Navy estimates 1948-49 (Cmd. 7337), the Admiralty stated that the policy deliberately to accelerate reduction of manpower had 'necessarily involved some temporary dislocation and lack of balance and for a time the immobilization of certain units'.

European Recovery Programme. A statement approved by the Executive of the Labour Party, defending E.R.P. against its critics, argued in favour of more definite machinery than had so far been proposed. Governments might from time to time be tempted to break away from the agreed programme in the hope of special benefits, or if relations between the Great Powers became more strained the U.S. Government itself might wish to favour areas of strategic importance or jettison an unlucky country. In such contingencies the sixteen nations should have an organization through which to make their joint approach to the U.S.A.

The statement discussed the urgent need for co-operative development in the overseas territories of Britain, France, Belgium, Holland, and Portugal.

Western Union. The statement went on: 'The necessary redirection of national thinking cannot be maintained unless European unity is presented as a dynamic new ideal. A public declaration of faith in European unity would act as a challenge to the latent idealism of the masses so long nourished on disillusion and despair, and as a continuing spur to international action for the politicians and public servants, whose enthusiasm would otherwise founder under the accumulation of administrative detail.'

Palestine. The text of the Palestine Bill was issued providing that on a date to be declared by Order in Council as that on which the Mandate was relinquished any British Jurisdiction should be ended and 'H.M. Government in the United Kingdom shall cease to be responsible for the Government of Palestine' (see also *Palestine and U.N. Palestine Commission*).

1 *Mar.*—Railways transferred (see *Argentina*).

2 *Mar.*—Cultural convention (see *France*).

Trade Agreements. The Government concluded an agreement with Finland under which Finland would supply 190,000 tons of chemical wood pulp, 30,000–40,000 tons of mechanical wood pulp, 150,000 cubic fathoms of pit props, and other timber products. Britain would supply 400,000 tons of coal and coke and 40,000 tons of steel.

The Government agreed with Poland to increase the trade programme (under the agreement of June 1947) from £6.5 million to £11 million. Sale of Railways (see *Uruguay*).

Czechoslovakia. The National Executive Committee of the Labour Party issued a statement: 'For democratic Socialists still free to choose their future the fall of Czechoslovakia is a warning and a lesson. For three years the Czech people had shown itself united alike in its will for friendship with the Soviet Union and in its determination to carry through great social and economic transformations without sacrificing its democratic heritage. This national unity has been shattered in a week because the Communist minority in the Government, afraid of defeat in free elections, chose instead to impose a dictatorship. No clearer demonstration could be possible, that Communists consider as enemies all those who do not surrender unconditionally to their slightest whims . . . All their democratic phrase-mongering and parliamentary façade are only temporary means to the dictatorship of a single totalitarian party at the behest of a foreign police State. And they have repeatedly admitted this themselves. But . . . Communists cannot achieve their aims without support from a minority within the camp of democratic Socialism. As in Czechoslovakia, so in Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria, individual Socialists by permitting or abetting Communist attacks on democracy have connived at their own destruction. The issues before us no longer permit of any prevarication. Socialism is meaningless without democracy. Democracy cannot live without freedom of speech, press, and organization; without the right to protection against arbitrary arrest, the

right of appeal to a non-political judiciary. Any attempt to achieve Socialism by means which deny democracy and human rights, particularly by the operation of an all-powerful secret police, must lead inevitably to a dictatorship, indistinguishable in its impact on the common man from Fascism, as it existed in Italy and in Germany, as it still exists in Spain. Czechoslovakia is an acid test of sincerity. Those who seek to condone this crime show that they are false to the principle of democratic Socialism for which the Labour Party stands.'

3 Mar.—*Western Union*. Speaking in the House of Lords, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Lord Pakenham, said: 'How can Western Europe be saved from Communism without war as we could not save it from Nazism without war? The first answer clearly lies in the sphere of defence but if that were the whole answer what a prospect we should be faced with.' He believed there was a better possibility than that. 'If we succeed with the Marshall Plan we shall win not only Western Europe but Eastern Europe as well. We have to be careful not to outrun the speed of legislation in the American Congress, but naturally the Government has been thinking all the time of the form in which the programme should be organized on the European side. I can give the assurance that the plan for a western union will be pushed ahead as rapidly as possible.'

Antarctic Dispute. Mr Bevin said in Parliament, referring to the arrival of an Argentine naval detachment on Deception Island, and the landing of Argentine and Chilean naval parties at other points, that the magistrates in charge of British occupied posts had standing instructions to take all necessary measures to safeguard the British legal title to sovereignty in the Dependencies.

British Honduras. A Note was sent to Guatemala protesting against the 'disgraceful occurrences' of 3 March when crowds assembled before the Chancery of the British Legation, climbed up the windows, affixed insulting placards, hoisted the Guatemalan flag on the Legation flag-staff, threw stones, etc. The Guatemalan Government was well aware that this demonstration was planned, and the press and wireless had called on the people to assist in this pre-arranged display.

Mr Bevin said in the House of Commons that a resolution was put forward in the Guatemalan Congress on 22 February advocating the immediate invasion of British Honduras. The President of the Congress had refused to accept this resolution, but the Government had considered it wise to send H.M.S. *Sheffield* and H.M.S. *Devonshire* to Belize to ensure the protection of life and property.

Parliamentary group meetings (*see France*).

Antarctic dispute (*see Chile*).

4 Mar.—Brussels Conference (*see Western Union*).

Balance of Payments. In a Press statement, Sir Stafford Cripps showed that exports in January rose to £124.9 million or 28 per cent above pre-war by volume. The total deficit for 1947 was £1,200 million. Although there were no grounds for complacency it was clear that as a nation Britain was producing more now than ever before.

Western Union. An exchange of letters between Mr Bevin and M.

Bidault, to mark the first anniversary of the Dunkirk Treaty, was published. Mr Bevin said: 'We are working together and we shall welcome the co-operation of all nations of good will for the economic, cultural, and social development of Europe.' M. Bidault replied: 'Today Britain and France closely joined must build up such a union of the free countries of Europe, and in the first place of Western Europe, as may constitute an expression of our faith in the moral values which have been throughout history the *raison d'être* of our two peoples and their neighbours.'

British Honduras. The Government replied to the Note of protest from Guatemala. They said they 'note with surprise that the visits of these two warships to British territory involve entering the territorial waters of Guatemala. British Honduras has been indisputably British for over 100 years'. The Note repeated the offer to lay the whole matter before the International Court.

Rumania. Ex-king Michael, in an interview to the Press in London, stated: 'In the morning of 30 December 1947, M. Petru Groza and Gheorghiu-Dej, members of the Cabinet, presented to me the text of the act of abdication, urging me to sign it at once. Both of them came to the Royal Palace after it had been surrounded by armed detachments, informing me that they would hold me responsible for the bloodshed which would follow, as a consequence of the instructions already issued by them, in case I should not sign within the time limit. This act was imposed on me by force by a Government installed and maintained in power by a foreign country, a Government utterly unrepresentative of the will of the Rumanian people. This Government had violated international pledges binding them to respect the political freedom of the people, had falsified the elections, and annihilated the democratic political leaders who enjoyed the confidence of the country. The removal of the monarchy constitutes a new act of violence in the policy for the enslavement of Rumania. In these conditions I do not consider myself bound in any way by this act imposed upon me. With unshaken faith in our future animated by the same devotion and will to work, I will continue to serve the Rumanian people with which my destiny is inexorably bound.'

GREECE. 21 Feb.—Eleven Communists convicted of 200 murders committed during the 1944 rising and eight others, including a woman, implicated in a recent plot to assassinate General Zervas and others were executed in Athens. Sixteen others were executed in the provinces.

26 Feb.—After fierce fighting a rebel band was defeated near Almyros, between Lamia and Volos.

3 Mar.—The rebel radio station announced that under an agreement with the Governments supporting the rebellion, Greek children between the ages of three and fourteen would be sent to Russian satellite States for instruction in Communist ideals. Over 7,000 Greek children had already been conscribed for this purpose from 59 villages of northern Greece.

Government's complaint (see *U.N. Balkans Commission*).

GUATEMALA. 27 Feb.—*British Honduras*. Cruiser sails (see *Great Britain*).

28 Feb.—*British Honduras*. The President and Foreign Minister issued a joint statement denouncing the sending of British warships and calling on the U.S.A. to defend the interests of Latin-American countries in their territorial disputes with Britain. They declared that British 'provocation' on the eve of the Pan-American conference was 'eloquent evidence' that the Guatemalan demand for an end of colonies in the Americas should be supported by all delegations. The statement said that while Guatemala was not in a position to recover by force 'that part of the national territory retained by a powerful empire', it trusted that principles of freedom and justice would prevail over British 'disdain and aggression'.

The Foreign Ministry, in a protest, of which copies were sent to the United Nations, to the Pan-American Union, and to the Government of each American country, asserted that the British 'cruiser' *Swallow* (meaning, probably, the sloop of that name) had been sent to join the British cruisers *Sheffield* and *Devonshire* in 'the Guatemalan territory of Belize, under the pretext of protecting interests threatened by irresponsible mobs, incited by Guatemala'. The protest continued: 'Serenely maintaining its claims on a juridical ground, my Government emphatically rejects the offensive imputation of incitement and protests with all energy against the presence of those ships in our national waters.'

1 Mar.—Troops landed (see *British Honduras*).

2 Mar.—*British Honduras*. Some 10,000 persons demonstrated around the British Legation in Guatemala City.

3 Mar.—Protest note (see *Great Britain*).

4 Mar.—*British Honduras*. It was announced that units of the army were being dispatched to protect national territory and Guatemalans in the event of the British invading the departments of Peten and Izabal. The action was taken 'in view of the actual emergency precipitated by the disembarkation of British troops on our territory at Belize.'

Reply to Note (see *Great Britain*.)

HUNGARY. 24 Feb.—M. Szakasits, deputy Prime Minister and leader of the left-wing of the Social Democratic Party, who had arrived back from Moscow after signing the treaty of alliance with the U.S.S.R., said that the *coup* (see p. 124) that had taken place in his absence had not surprised him. The Social Democratic Party would continue to exist as a separate unit until 'the hour for people's unity has struck, and at that moment, and not on command, the Socialists will create unity'.

HYDERABAD. 1 Mar.—Delegation in India (see *India*).

ICELAND. 23 Feb.—See *Northern Conference*.

INDIA. 24 Feb.—The Ministry of States announced that the result of the referendum held in Junagadh State on 20 February showed

190,779 votes in favour of accession to India, and 91 in favour of accession to Pakistan.

25 Feb.—Communal disturbances occurred in north Calcutta and five persons were killed. A curfew was imposed.

28 Feb.—The last British troops left India.

1 Mar.—A delegation from Hyderabad State consisting of the Prime Minister, Mir Laik Ali, the Minister of External Affairs, the Nawab Moin Nawaz Jung, and Sir Walter Monckton, constitutional adviser to the Hyderabad Government, arrived in Delhi.

4 Mar.—*Kashmir*. Pandit Nehru announced that the Afghan Government had promised to take 'deterrent action' against Afghan tribesmen fighting or wishing to fight in Kashmir.

INDO-CHINA. 27 Feb.—A flotilla of the British Pacific Fleet paid an official visit to Saigon.

2 Mar.—A French convoy was attacked by Viet-Minh forces some eighty miles from Saigon. About 150 persons were killed and only 12 of the 61 vehicles in the convoy managed to fight their way back.

INDONESIA. 21 Feb.—It was stated that Madura island was to be recognized by the Netherlands East Indies Government as a *negara* (autonomous State) in the future United States of Indonesia. In a plebiscite on 24 January, 90 per cent of qualified voters in Madura had opted for an autonomous State.

IRAQ. 25 Feb.—The Regent issued the following decree: 'The present Cabinet came to power in consequence of recent events, and in delicate circumstances requiring measures to realize the people's wishes, consolidate stability and order, and ensure the country's moral and material progress. With a view to ascertaining the nation's opinion of the policy to assure these aims, we have issued this decree dissolving Parliament.'

ITALY. 23 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme*. Sr de Gasperi, in an election speech at Lecce, said the U.S.A. had asked for no political advantages in return for its aid. The U.S.S.R. and other countries could send Italy supplies, but only against payment, whereas today U.S. aid was being given free. Italy desired friendly relations with Russia, but could not agree to anticipate the date of reparation payments which were not due to begin till the end of 1949. The Christian Democrats had no intention of suffering the fate of the non-Communist parties in various Balkan States 'or of ending up as the non-Communist parties of Czechoslovakia seem likely to do'. If there must be a battle, 'it is best to fight today and risk everything even if it costs us our heads. But there will be no Kerenskys among us.'

JAPAN. 22 Feb.—Dr Hitoshi Ashida (Democratic Party) was elected Prime Minister by the House of Representatives (*see p. 126*).

23 Feb.—General MacArthur's H.Q. issued a statement saying that the designation as Prime Minister of Dr Ashida was 'thoroughly

democratic', while attempts by certain groups to 'force members of the Diet, under claim of constitutional practice, to vote for any particular candidate who was not their personal choice were little short of being unpatriotic and un-Japanese'. Steps should be taken in Japan, it was urged, to avoid the necessity of frequent elections—'one of the greatest plagues of Parliamentary government'. It was to be hoped that Japan could 'stabilize her politics so that that evil might be minimized'.

3 Mar.—*Allied Council*. Gen. Kisenko (U.S.S.R.) demanded the dismissal of Mr Ashida on the ground that he had been for seven years president of the newspaper *Japan Times* which was 'one of the most notorious media for spreading the ideas of the Japanese military clique'. The chairman, Mr Sebald (U.S.A.) accused the U.S.S.R. of attempting 'direct interference' with the formation of a Japanese Cabinet, contrary to the Potsdam Declaration and the rulings of the Far Eastern Commission, and cut short the discussion before the General had finished reading his statement.

NORTHERN CONFERENCE. 23 Feb.—The Foreign and Trade Ministers of Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, and Norway met in Oslo.

24 Feb.—*European Recovery Programme*. The conference ended.

An official communiqué stated: 'The Ministers discussed their countries' continued participation in European co-operation in connection with the Marshall Plan. They agreed that they shared the same view on the problems which the Marshall Plan seeks to solve, and that the successful implementation of the plan would be of decisive importance for European reconstruction. All four countries would participate in the proposed working committee, and it was agreed that the joint northern committee for economic co-operation which the Foreign Ministers' conference in Copenhagen on 27 and 28 August 1947, agreed to set up should be established immediately, and should meet in Copenhagen in March or in April at the latest. As a contribution to general economic reconstruction after the war, the committee will consider questions which are of common interest to the northern countries' economy, primarily the following: the possibility of establishing a common northern customs tariff as a preliminary step to further work towards a northern customs union; the possibility of a reduction in customs rates and a limitation of quantitative trade restrictions among the northern countries; the possibility of an extended division of work and increased specialization between the northern countries in collaboration with the various branches of industry and commercial and professional organizations.'

NORWAY. 23 Feb.—*See Northern Conference*.

29 Feb.—The Prime Minister, Hr Gerhardsen, declared that, like their comrades in other countries, the Norwegian Communists adhered in their hearts to terror and dictatorship. 'No pretty protestations must any longer prevent people from recognizing this brutal fact. Norwegian Communists would have all democratic rights,' he added. 'We shall fight Communism by democratic means and spiritual weapons.'

PAKISTAN. 22 Feb.—Ceiling and floor prices for cotton were abolished and it was announced that export permits would be given freely for stocks held at Karachi.

Financial agreement (*see Great Britain*).

Palestine. Two emissaries brought personal letters from the Mufti to Mr Jinnah, Mr Liaquat Ali Khan, and others, asking for effective support of the Arabs. The Mission was also to visit East Bengal, Hyderabad, and Muslim States in the Indian Union.

24 Feb.—Junagadh referendum (*see India*).

PALESTINE. 21 Feb.—Excluded from sterling area (*see Great Britain*).

22 Feb.—Three lorries, which had been driven into the Jewish zone of Jerusalem under protection of an armoured car, blew up in Ben Yehuda Street, killing some fifty and injuring some seventy people. Following Jewish allegations that British security personnel were responsible, British police and troops had to be withdrawn from rescue work. Subsequently three British servicemen were killed and an army padre seriously injured near the Jewish Agency. Two other British soldiers were murdered while receiving first aid in a Jewish hospital. Five British soldiers were killed and six injured when an army lorry was mined in the Street of the Prophets.

Mufti's emissaries (*see Pakistan*).

23 Feb.—The Jewish Agency announced that a preliminary investigation into the cause of the explosion implicated British police and soldiers. An Arab leaflet signed Abdulqadir Hussein (Arab military commander in the area) claimed responsibility for the Jerusalem outrage, which was a reprisal for a similar Jewish outrage in Ramle.

Statement by Government (*see Great Britain*).

24 Feb.—Members of the Arab Higher Executive stated in Cairo that the communiqué purporting to have been issued the previous day by Abdulqadir Hussein was false. They stated that he had not been in Palestine for the past four days.

27 Feb.—An Order in Council was published empowering the High Commissioner to legislate by Order with effect from 1 March (*see also Great Britain and United Nations*).

28 Feb.—The Cairo-Haifa train was mined north of Rehovoth and some 28 British soldiers were killed and 35 injured. The Stern Gang claimed responsibility for the attack, declaring it was a reprisal for the explosion in Ben Yehuda Street, Jerusalem.

British military H.Q. in Jerusalem issued a proclamation declaring that the British Army was prepared to 'use weapons more powerful than those available to Arabs and Jews' impartially to quell fighting between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem.

1 Mar.—In a statement addressed to the Jewish Agency and Jewish community the Government pointed out that a year ago they invited the Agency and Vaad Leumi to call upon the Jewish community to help to find and arrest terrorists as part of the ordinary legal, moral duty of the citizens and institutions of any civilized State. This invitation was

declined by the Agency on the ground that it was contrary to Jewish political interests. Since then the outrages had increased in number and barbarity, culminating in the outrage of the previous day. 'The Agency's recent statement that it stands for law and order, whereas the Government does not, must be judged in the light of the fact that for many years this international body has been breaking the laws of Palestine and other countries in which it has operated. Last November the Agency undertook to establish within ten days a civil guard to deal with terrorists centred in the area of Tel Aviv and British police and troops were withdrawn to avoid interference with this force. But it still is not in being, and terrorists openly and freely continue to murder and rob the Jews themselves. In this neglect of its responsibilities the Jewish Agency has attempted to excuse itself by resort to calculated innuendoes, falsehoods, and propaganda directed against British members of the security forces, who are, in fact, every day protecting Jewish property and saving hundreds of Jewish lives, even at the risk of their own. This propaganda has already discredited its authors, and not only among those acquainted with the facts. It has also the serious consequences that it must henceforward be clearly more difficult for British troops to look upon members of the Jewish community as persons entitled, as they are, to protection.' Nobody outside Jewish circles believed the Agency's repetition that a British Army convoy was responsible for the Ben Yehuda Street outrage, and there could be no other purpose in repeating it than to stir up racial hatred. 'The Government, mindful of the duty of the security forces to maintain law and order, and confronted with the deliberate policy of the Agency to render their task as difficult as possible, desires to bring once more to the serious attention of the Jewish community that a continuance of indiscriminate murder and condoned terrorism can lead only to the forfeiture by the community of all right in the eyes of the world to be numbered among civilized peoples.'

3 Mar.—A truck loaded with explosives was detonated and blew up the Arab-owned Salam building in Haifa, killing eleven Arabs and three Armenians. The Stern Gang claimed responsibility for the outrage.

4 Mar.—Jews tried to mine an Arab bus on the Ramallah-Latrun road. The three Arab passengers, who were armed, engaged the Jews, and Arabs from the hills came and surrounded them. One Jew escaped, two were taken prisoner, and seventeen killed.

POLAND. 22 Feb.—*Conference on Germany*. The Foreign Minister, M. Modzelewski, told the Press that Poland, like the other Slav countries, would not consider itself bound by any decisions taken in London which might run counter to Yalta and Potsdam, and which aimed at a division of Germany. He said that negotiations for a trade treaty between Poland and the Soviet zone of Germany were in progress.

25 Feb.—*Three-Year Plan*. A financial plan for national investments in 1948 (the second year of the three-year plan), was adopted by the Sejm at a total cost of 194,000 million zlotys (over £120 million). Forty per cent of the total was to be spent on industrialization, building new factories and a number of new chemical works in western Poland.

Agriculture, housing, health, and culture received 34 per cent of the total, while the building of ports, bridges, and merchant navy vessels covered 24 per cent. Total investments for 1948 were about 19 per cent higher than 1947. A special feature was the amount to be spent on modernization and reconstruction of coal mines and the building of two large new coal mines. Even more than in 1947, the investment plan was designed to fit in with the new economic system, so that 92 per cent of the total was to be spent on State-owned undertakings.

Western Union. Addressing the Sejm, and dealing with Poland's desire for trade with the west, the Foreign Minister, M. Modzelewski, said that Poland wanted to export bacon, eggs, and sugar to Britain and would continue to do so, 'but we should like Mr Bevin to take into consideration that production and exports demand a proper atmosphere. Discrimination and attempts to restrict sovereign rights, and a plan for a so-called western union, cannot promote trade between eastern and western Europe.'

29 Feb.—The Prime Minister and the Rumanian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, who were on a visit to Poland, signed a cultural agreement between the two countries.

2 Mar.—Trade agreement (*see Great Britain*).

3 Mar.—*Three-Year Plan.* It was announced that coal output in 1947 reached 59 million metric tons, over 1 million more than the target. Exports increased to 19 million (15 million in 1946).

4 Mar.—M. Stanislaw Szwalbe, deputy speaker of the Sejm and member of the Executive Council of the Socialist Party, told the Press that while eventual fusion of Socialists and Communists into a single Party was probable, the time for the merger was not yet.

RUMANIA. 26 Feb.—It was learned that the Socialist Party had merged with the Communist Party.

29 Feb.—Cultural agreement (*see Poland*).

4 Mar.—Statement by ex-King Michael (*see Great Britain*).

SWEDEN. 23 Feb.—*See Northern Conference.*

TRANSJORDAN. 21 Feb.—Excluded from sterling area (*see Great Britain*).

2 Mar.—*Britain.* The Government stated that they wished to reopen discussions with Britain for revising the treaty.

UNITED NATIONS

BALKANS COMMISSION

3 Mar.—The Greek Government complained against the abductions of Greek children by the Communist forces (*see also Greece*).

CONVENTIONAL ARMAMENTS COMMISSION

1 Mar.—Mr Richard Miles (Britain) put forward a resolution suggesting principles on which a system of regulation and reduction of

armaments and armed forces might be worked out. It laid down that the system should be open to the adherence of all states but should include, initially at least, those with large military resources. It could be brought into effect only in an atmosphere of international confidence, conditions for which were the organization of military forces for the Security Council; the establishment of international control of atomic energy; and the conclusion of peace treaties which would prevent a recurrence of German or Italian aggression. Finally, the system would include safeguards, including provision for effective enforcement action against violators.

M. Gromyko replied that the conditions set by the British for disarmament were unacceptable. The way to create confidence was to deflate inflated military establishments.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

27 Feb.—*Sub-Commission on Freedom of Information*. The Council adopted with one dissentient vote (U.S.S.R.) the articles drafted by the Sub-Commission for inclusion in the projected Declaration and Covenant of Human Rights and decided to transmit the Sub-Commission's report to the International Conference on Freedom of Information (Geneva, 23 March).

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION

21 Feb.—The fourth Conference of the European National Committees ended in Rome. Recommendations were adopted to increase European food production, for greater co-operation between eastern and western Europe, and to choose Rome as the headquarters of the European regional office.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

26 Feb.—*Korea*. The Committee decided by 31 votes to 2, with 11 abstentions, that the Korea Commission should proceed to observe the election of a national assembly in those parts of Korea to which it had access.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

26 Feb.—*Corfu Channel Dispute*. The Court began hearings.

The British Attorney-General, Sir Hartley Shawcross, opening the British case, declared: 'I speak for Britain and for the ordinary people of the world, when I say that we utterly reject the doctrine that wars are the product of blind forces and irresistible instincts which human volition and intelligence cannot overcome. In that battle for freedom from fear, in which all men of goodwill are engaged, the judicial settlement of disputes on the basis of law and justice is an essential and indispensable element.'

27 Feb.—*Corfu Channel Dispute*. Professor Vochoc (Albania), arguing that the Court was not competent, said a unilateral application to the Court was valid only in the event of compulsory jurisdiction. Britain's application might have been made valid by a subsequent con-

sent of Albania but it was not the intention of Albania to give such consent.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

3 Mar.—The Permanent Migration Committee recommended to the governing body that migration should appear on the agenda of the 1949 International Labour Conference, in the form of a revision of the 1939 International Convention which was not ratified.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

4 Mar.—The Maritime Conference unanimously adopted a resolution that the headquarters of the I.M.O. should be in London.

PALESTINE COMMISSION

27 Feb.—A memorandum from the British Government stated that after 15 May the Commission would be the Government of Palestine. It did not seem very material whether *de facto* or *de jure*, since in any case its title would rest on a resolution of the General Assembly. 'The British Government will recognize the Commission as the authority wherewith to make an agreement regarding the transfer of assets of the Palestine Government.'

The Commission called on all employees of the Palestine administration to continue their services with the successor authority when the Mandate ended.

3 Mar.—An advance party of six members of the secretariat arrived in Jerusalem.

SECURITY COUNCIL

24 Feb.—*Palestine*. Discussions began. The Chairman of the Palestine Commission, Dr Liscicky (Czechoslovakia), and representatives of Egypt, Lebanon, and the Jewish Agency were admitted to take part in it. Mr Warren Austin (U.S.A.) said that it was of the first importance to the future of the United Nations that the precedent to be established by the action taken in the Palestine case should be in full accord with the terms of the Charter. The recommendations of the Assembly had great moral force, which applied to all members regardless of their views or votes, and the Security Council, although not bound by the recommendations of the Assembly, was nevertheless expected to give great weight to them. Attempts to frustrate the Assembly recommendation by the threat or use of force or incitement to force by States or people outside Palestine were contrary to the Charter.

He proposed that the Council should handle the situation, which he admitted brooked of no delay, by two parallel lines of action: inquiry into a possible threat to peace arising from the situation in Palestine, which, if established, would oblige the Council to act, and an endeavour to get agreement between the parties concerned 'on the basis of the General Assembly's resolution' for the underlying political difficulty. To these ends the U.S.A. suggested setting up a committee composed of the five permanent members of the Council—Britain, China, France,

the U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R.—which would consult the Palestine Commission, the Mandatory, and representatives of the principal communities concerned. The Council should also call upon the Governments and peoples, particularly in and around Palestine, to take all possible action to prevent or reduce the disorders now occurring. He pointed out that the Council had no power to enforce a political settlement, whether that settlement was pursuant to the recommendations of the Assembly or of the Council itself. The Council's action must be directed solely to the maintenance of international peace. A finding by the Security Council that a danger to peace existed placed all members of the United Nations regardless of their views under the obligation to assist the Council in maintaining the peace. 'If the Security Council should decide that it is necessary to use armed force to maintain international peace in connexion with Palestine, the U.S.A. would be ready to consult under the Charter with a view to such action as may be necessary.' The report of the Palestine Commission did not allege that a threat to peace, a breach of the peace, or an act of aggression had occurred in Palestine. It reported facts which, if accepted or substantiated by the Security Council, would appear to lead to the conclusion that a threat to international peace was present in the situation. It clearly implied that a threat to peace and a breach of the peace would occur if the Commission continued its effort to carry out the Assembly's resolution. It had also reached the conclusion that it could not fulfil its functions under the Assembly resolution unless armed forces were provided for the Commission by the Council.

Dr Liscicky said that the security aspect of the problem commanded all the rest. Only fools might boast of being able to do constructive work in the chaotic conditions which threatened in Palestine when the British left. Even if a governor with an adequate police force to protect the Holy Places could be installed by 15 May, Jerusalem would still be doomed unless guaranteed free communication with the outside world. That meant the United Nations would require to exercise effective control over a large part of the projected Arab State. To establish and run an economic union without the voluntary co-operation of all three territories or alternatively without enforced and effective control over the recalcitrant part was an obvious impossibility.

Mr Creech-Jones (Britain) said that Britain was too deeply involved in the history of Palestine to be called upon to shoulder any further commitments. Neither party in Palestine regarded her as impartial. All nations had seemed relieved to know that her intention was to withdraw completely. She could not take the course which would entangle her again. They would withdraw the last of their forces by 1 August 1948 and refused either individually or in association with others to impose the U.N. plan by force. He added 'Logically our course is to abstain from voting upon this issue'.

25 Feb.—*Palestine*. Mr Warren Austin put forward a resolution inviting the Council to accept, 'subject to the authority of the Security Council under the Charter', the requests addressed to the Council in the General Assembly's resolution partitioning Palestine, and to establish a

committee consisting of five permanent members, with the following functions: '(1) To inform the Security Council regarding the situation with respect to Palestine, and to make recommendations to it regarding guidance and instructions which the Council might usefully give to the Palestine Commission. (2) To consider whether the situation with respect to Palestine constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and to report its conclusions as a matter of urgency to the Council together with any recommendations for action by the Security Council which it considers appropriate. (3) To consult with the Palestine Commission, the Mandatory Power, and representatives of the principal communities of Palestine concerning implementation of the General Assembly recommendation of 29 November 1947.'

Mahmoud bey Fawzi (Egypt) upheld the privilege of his Government and that of other Arab States not to comply with the resolution, which they regarded as illegal, remarking that in doing so they were not setting a precedent. He added that they had other rights under the Charter—those of equal sovereignty and of self-defence—neither of which would be forgotten by the Arabs in or outside Palestine. The Arabs in Palestine, he claimed, were a great deal less well-armed than the Jews, and he envisaged the menace to their lives and liberties at the hands of the Jews developing to a point at which the Arab States would have to come to their rescue.

27 Feb.—*Palestine*. Mr Shertok (Jewish Agency) asked the Council to translate the partition scheme into action. The Agency had 'never regarded an international force as an indispensable condition for implementation of the partition plan'. The Jews of Palestine were ready to shoulder far-reaching responsibilities for the defence of the territory awarded to them. The Arab Governments should get it out of their heads that the Jews in Palestine would ever submit to the status of a minority on sufferance. To the Council, on the other hand, he wished to say that the partition plan was, for the Jewish Agency, their last and final compromise. 'No reduction of Jewish rights under the plan, either in territory or in sovereignty, can be accepted by the Jewish people.'

The delegate from Columbia withdrew his resolution to which the U.S.A. had announced opposition. It was perhaps fitting that as the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. were joint parents to the partition scheme, their idea for dealing with the situation it had brought about should be examined first by the Council. The debate was adjourned until 2 March.

Burma. Burma applied for membership of the United Nations.

2 Mar.—*Palestine*. Mr Creech Jones told the Council that Britain could not support that part of the U.S. resolution on Palestine which committed the Council to carrying out the partition scheme, nor could a British member be appointed to the committee whose duties, the U.S.A. had proposed, would include giving guidance to the Palestine Commission.

Mr Gromyko (U.S.S.R.) objected that the consultations between the five great powers should not be through a committee. None of the great powers should be given an opportunity to hide behind committee doors, for that might delay settlement. He asked for the deletion

from the U.S. resolution of the proposal for consultations with representatives of the Arab and Jewish communities in Palestine. Mr Austin (U.S.A.) said the partition scheme could be put into effect only by peaceful measures. The Belgian delegate objected to the inclusion of the phrase 'on the basis of the Assembly's resolution' and proposed an amendment omitting the phrase.

3 Mar.—*Palestine*. The delegates of China and Canada argued that the five powers should not be handicapped in their efforts at conciliation through the Council's being committed in advance to implementing the partition of Palestine and acting in certain circumstances under Chapter 7 of the Charter. Gen. McNaughton (Canada) said the essence of the situation was that the Assembly's recommendations had not brought peace to the Holy Land. The five great powers taking the partition scheme as a starting point should make the most serious and supreme effort to resolve this situation through conciliation. The Council adjourned until 5 March.

WORLD TRADE CONFERENCE

22 Feb.—The U.S.A. reached agreement with Great Britain and the European countries on the wording of Article 23 of the draft charter so as to allow more latitude for bilateral expedients during the transition period.

4 Mar.—A general settlement of economic development issues was approved subject to reservations by Britain, Argentina, India, Turkey, and one other. Mr Stephen Holmes (Britain) said his Government neither accepted nor rejected the Charter and its economic development articles but they found definitely unsatisfactory the article on new preferential tariff systems for the purposes of development and reconstruction, as it excluded British Empire countries from the preferences.

URUGUAY. 27 Feb.—President meets President Perón (*see Argentina*).

2 Mar.—The Government agreed to buy the British-owned railways for £7,150,000.

U.S.A. 24 Feb.—An agreement was signed with Britain governing the regular use by civil aircraft of air fields in the Caribbean and in Bermuda.

26 Feb.—*Czechoslovakia*. Statement (*see Great Britain*).

Greece and Turkey. The Secretary of State asked Congress for \$275 million with which to continue the programme of military assistance. Mr Marshall said the funds were needed by 1 April if the flow of supplies to the Greek forces fighting the guerrillas was to be maintained.

27 Feb.—*Conference on Germany*. A Note from the U.S.S.R. stated that the Soviet Government considered that satisfaction should be given to the request of the Czechoslovak, Yugoslav, and Polish Governments to be allowed to take part in the planning of Germany's future.

1 Mar. *European Recovery Programme*. Senator Vandenberg, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, opening the Senate debate declared: 'In the name of peace, stability, and freedom [the Aid Bill]

deserves prompt passage. . . . It would be a far happier circumstance if we could close our eyes to reality . . . and dream of an isolated and prosperous peace. But that which was once our luxury would now become our folly. This is too plain to be persuasively denied in a foreshortened atomic world. We must take things as they are. The greatest nation on earth either justifies or surrenders its leadership. We must choose.'

European Economic Co-operation. He said the sixteen nations acted bravely and 'in virtual defiance of the Russian bear, which promptly showed its teeth'. Yet there was nothing in the plan which threatened the Soviet police empire with any sort of consequence which it did not itself choose voluntarily to invite.

Honourable release of East-West tension would be the greatest boon of modern times. 'There is no consistent effort which the U.S.A. should withhold in the pursuit of this objective. But peace and appeasement are not on speaking terms and the latest totalitarian idea of virtually dividing the earth between Washington and Moscow would not be peace. It would simply be a dishonourable truce preceding final, unspeakable disaster.'

Germany. The Marshall Plan depended again for success upon the prompt restoration of Western Germany to an effective place in the economy of Europe and the world. It must be decentralized. It must be 'demilitarized for "keeps",' but it must be restored to decent hope and productivity. 'The Western occupying Powers must quit their indecision and put Germany wholesomely at work again without delay.' The Ruhr alone could spell the difference between success and failure.

Czechoslovakia. 'The fate of Czechoslovakia, where every semblance of democracy has been gutted by subversive conquest, underscores the solemn thesis' of the E.R.P. legislation. Russian opposition to the plan was 'a conspiracy to prevent the emergence of order out of chaos, and Western freedom out of hopelessness. Communists everywhere have responded.'

Finland. 'Great sabotage is under way. The kindred fate of brave little Finland may be added to the ominous score this very afternoon whilst we are debating an axiom. Aggressive Communism threatens all freedom and all security, whether in the old world or the new, when it puts peoples anywhere in chains.'

Conclusion. The Marshall Plan 'aims to preserve the victory against aggression and dictatorship which we thought we won in World War II. It strives to help stop World War III before it starts. It recognizes the grim truth that American self-interest, national economy, and national security are inseparably linked with these objectives'.

3 Mar.—*Greece and Turkey.* Mr Marshall and the Secretary of Defence, Mr James Forrestal, gave evidence in support of the Administration's request for £68,750,000 to spend on guns, planes, and other weapons that should be mentioned. Mr Forrestal said: 'It is evident that the military position in both countries must receive our first attention. Greece and Turkey lie on the fringe of totalitarian countries whose actions leave little doubt that they hope to extend their control over these two strategically located nations. Turkey bars the path to the

ambitions of any power coveting the rich resources of the Near East. The consequences of a display of weakness on our part in this critical area are beyond calculation.'

British Loan. The British Government withdrew the last \$100 million.

Czechoslovakia. The Ambassador in Washington, Mr Juraj Slavik, resigned. He said: 'Czechoslovakia has become a fully totalitarian police state. I am the representative of a free democratic Czechoslovakia, and I cannot accept as legal a Government nominated by President Benes under duress and terror. I have decided to fight for Czechoslovak democracy.'

U.S.S.R. 23 Feb.—Note on German conference (*see Great Britain*.)

24 Feb.—M. Alexander Lavrishchev was appointed Ambassador to Turkey.

Diplomatic relations with Burma (*see Burma*).

27 Feb.—Conference on Germany. Note (*see U.S.A.*).

Stalin's letter to President Paasikivi (*see Finland*).

European Recovery Programme. The Trade Union Council, while condemning E.R.P. as inevitably strengthening the division of Europe into two blocs, announced that it would agree to any date 'in the near future' for a meeting of the executive committee of the W.F.T.U. Previously discussions had taken place between Soviet Trade Union leaders and the representatives of the C.I.O. (*see p. 141*).

3 Mar.—Barter agreement (*see Egypt*).

WESTERN UNION. 27 Feb.—Hague discussions (*see Benelux*).

Labour Party statement (*see Great Britain*).

29 Feb.—Discussion by Premiers (*see Benelux*). Spaak statement (*see Belgium*).

4 Mar.—A Conference of diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, France, and the three Benelux States was opened in Brussels by M. Spaak. The Benelux delegates presented a draft agreement for study.

WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS. 27 Feb.—Trade Union Council statement (*see U.S.S.R.*).

YEMEN. 21 Feb.—Emissaries leave (*see Arab League*).

24 Feb.—Assassination of Imam Yahya (*see Aden*).

26 Feb.—Rival Imams (*see Egypt*).

29 Feb.—Rival Imams (*see Egypt*).

YUGOSLAVIA. 23 Feb.—Dr Tomi Jancikovitch (Croat Peasant Party) was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for plotting to murder Yugoslav officials, and Ivan Stefanatz to 9 years' for organizing 'chemical and bacteriological warfare' against Yugoslav leaders. Both were alleged to be members of an illegal 'Matchek Centre'.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 8 Trade Union Conference on E.R.P., London.
- „ 15 European Economic Co-operation Conference, Paris.
- „ 18 Conference of Prime Ministers of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, Stockholm.
- „ 21 West European Socialist Party Conference, London.
- „ 23 U.N. Conference on Freedom of Information, Geneva.
- „ 31 Election in Korea.
- „ 31 Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva.
- Apr. 18 General Election in Italy.
- May 9 Election in South Korea.
- „ 15 Termination of British Mandate for Palestine.
- „ 17 Conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations, Geneva.
- June - U.N. Trusteeship Council, Lake Success.
- „ - World Power Conference, Stockholm.
- „ 1 Arab and Jewish States in Palestine to be formed.
- „ 1 I.C.A.O. Conference, Geneva.
- „ 4 International Socialist Conference, Vienna.
- „ 17 I.L.O. Conference, San Francisco.
- July 12 Economic and Social Council, Geneva.
- Aug. 1 Completion of British withdrawal from Palestine.
- „ 24 First Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Amsterdam.
- Sept. 27 British Africa Conference, London.
- Oct. 1 Arab and Jewish States to become independent.